

Air Force Prime Time, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs Thursday evenings at 8:25 p.m. Central European Time on AFN television. In this week's edition, Women's History Month: sacrifices, contributions and progress of sister airmen, history of the first female airmen, today's airmen in outer space and more.

News briefs

Wing member death

Staff Sgt. Craig Drury died Friday in a motorcycle accident in Birgden, Germany. Drury was assigned to NATO E-3A Component at Geilenkirchen Air Base.

Earth week

The Earth Week working group meets at 3 p.m. April 3 in Spangdahlem Air Base building 127. Call Wendee Raos-Marconi at 452-6082 for details.

Child safety

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death for children ages 5-14. The primary cause is children not wearing a seatbelt or being improperly restrained in the vehicle. Child safety seats reduce a child's chances of being killed or injured in a vehicle accident by as much as 70 percent.

In accordance with German and U.S. Air Forces in Europe vehicle child restraint requirements:

- Children under 12 and shorter than 150 centimeters riding in a USAREUR-plated vehicle must be fastened in a Economic Commission for Europe or U.S. Department of Transportation approved child restraint device in the vehicle back seat.

- Children weighing more than 48 pounds must use an approved booster seat or another device for use with a three-point seat belt.

To find out more, attend "Car Seat Safety," presented by the 52nd Services Squadron Child Development Centers from 3-5 p.m. April 3. Call Dee Lorenzen at 453-7012 for more information about the class.

For more information about child safety seat requirements, call the 52nd Fighter Wing Safety Office at 452-7233.

Corn dog recall

Worthington Food recalled its meatless Morningstar corn dogs, UPC 02898997500, after test confirmed some of the product may contain the genetic material Starlink. Starlink hasn't been approved for human consumption

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Eifel Times

Vol. 35, Issue 11

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

March 23, 2001

Italy bound

Senior Airman Daniel Durtschi, 81st Fighter Squadron crew chief, loads aircraft equipment in the travel pod of an A-10 for deployment to Aviano Air Base, Italy, in support of a combat search and rescue exercise. The squadron left March 15 and returns to Spangdahlem Air Base March 30.

Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

Airmen, soldiers trade places

Troop exchange helps improve joint working relationships

By Staff Sgt. Kyle Ford
363rd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs Office

Members of the 23rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and the 178th Expeditionary Maintenance Company, from Fort Bliss, Texas, recently experienced an opportunity only possible in a coalition environment – to trade places.

The purpose of the exchange program is to give airmen and soldiers the chance to see what the other does in meeting their daily missions, said exchange coordinator Army Capt. Jay McGuire, 178th EMC commander.

McGuire called Air Force Capt. David Flippo, of 23rd EFS maintenance officer, and asked Flippo if he could send some soldiers over to the 23rd's hangar to learn about the Air Force and its mission. Flippo thought it would be a good idea and sent some airmen who were interested in finding out what Army life is like.

According to McGuire, his initial

intention for the exchange was to give his troops a break from their regular jobs. He also wanted to offer his soldiers a better understanding of how the Air Force works in supporting a joint mission.

The 23rd EFS showed the Army liasons what it takes to maintain an aircraft. The exchange students experienced everything from a mission brief to aircraft recovery.

"Before (I visited the 23rd), I thought the pilot would just get in the plane and take off," said Army Spc. Rodney LaPoint, 178th EMC supply. "Now I know that there's more to it than that."

Army Spec. Edwina Lane, 178th EMC cook, said her best exchange experience was watching the ammunition crews exchange training missiles for live ones.

"The teamwork involved in changing them out and the cohesion in the Air Force really impressed me," said Lane.

Members of the 23rd EFS said they found the experience just as enlightening.

"It was really interesting to see the other side of the Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses mission," Airman 1st Class Brian Pagan, 23rd EFS avionics specialist, said. "The Air Force works to destroy missile batteries and the Army maintains (them)."

Senior Airman Jose Torres-Velez, 23rd EFS avionics specialist, helped on the Army's radar mission.

"It was amazing to see how organized and self-sufficient the Army is," Torres-Velez said. "When I have a problem with a piece of machinery, I call someone from the support squadron. If someone in the Army has a problem, they can get it fixed on the spot."

All the participants agreed this was something they couldn't experience anywhere else.

"While we are here in this coalition environment, it would be a shame not to take the opportunity to learn about our sister services," Flippo said

Military life insurance benefit increases to \$250K

WASHINGTON — The automatic maximum coverage for the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance increases from \$200,000 to \$250,000 April 1.

This coverage increase is a result of the Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000. The total cost for maximum coverage will be \$20 per month.

According to pay and compensation officials, every Air Force member's SGLI coverage will automatically increase April 1. While final implementation instructions are still pending, officials anticipate each member will have April to

elect a lower coverage amount without being charged for the automatic maximum coverage exceeding the member's current elected coverage.

Each member may decline coverage or elect a reduced level of insurance in multiples of \$10,000, officials said. The cost of coverage also remains 80 cents per \$10,000.

If people elect to change their coverage after April, they will pay for the maximum coverage for the month of April as well as for any other month in which the level of coverage remains in effect.

Existing beneficiaries remain in effect until a member updates their coverage. Implementation instructions will be available once finalized.

People wanting to keep their current level of coverage should visit the base military personnel flight customer service desk in Spangdahlem Air Base building 131 or their unit orderly room.

For more information about SGLI benefits, call 452-6554. (Air Force Print News)

Accidents

By Senior Airman Kassandra Watts
52nd Security Forces Squadron
Reports and Analysis

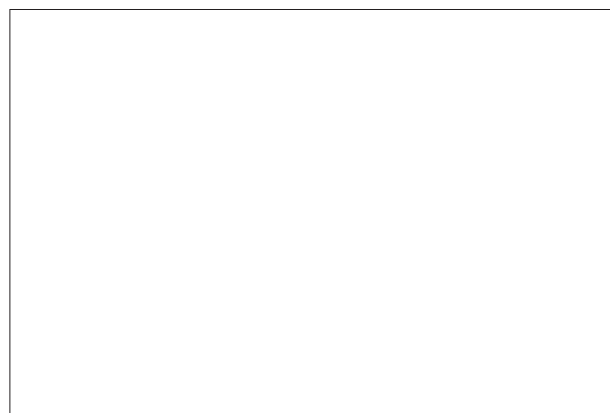
There were two major accidents in the Eifel this past week. In the first accident, a 1984 BMW was traveling on B-50 near the Speicher turnoff when the driver hit a puddle. The driver lost control of the vehicle, causing the car to flip three times. The vehicle sustained disabling damage. The vehicle operator also sustained injuries. Excessive speed was determined to be the major contributing factor to the accident.

The second major accident occurred when an American driving a 1995 Opel looked back while driving and lost control

of the vehicle. Within those few seconds, the vehicle swerved to the right side of the road and into the grass. The driver then attempted to regain control and get back on the hardened surface, but swerved across the entire road and landed upside down in a ditch. The driver escaped without injury. The vehicle was towed because of extensive damage.

There were a total of 12 minor accidents totaling \$4,650 in personal costs in the Eifel region last week. The 52nd Fighter Wing has had a total number of 185 minor accidents to date this year. Attentiveness behind the wheel could have eliminated many of these minor accidents.

**Here's a tip to stay alive --
Buckle your seatbelt and don't drink and drive.
Call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 452-2233
or your unit first sergeant.**



Staff Sgt. Laura Sparks

Mock crash

Robert Widowski and Eugen Naeckel, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Protection Flight, learn how the base's newest aircraft emergency response vehicle works. A "snozzle" is set to pierce a mock aircraft fuselage. After the snozzle is inserted, water or foam is injected into the fuselage to put out a fire. The new truck can carry 3,000 gallons of water and 420 gallons of foam.

New enlisted promotion schedule reduces wait time

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — In an effort to reduce the waiting time between enlisted promotion testing and the promotion release dates, the Air Force recently revised the Weighted Airman Promotion System testing schedule.

After this year's chief master sergeant testing cycle, all enlisted testing cycles for 2002 will be pushed back anywhere from a couple of weeks to two months.

None of these changes impact the ongoing testing cycles for 2001 or the promotion eligibility cutoff dates for current or future promotion cycles.

"It has been our goal for quite some time to bring enlisted promotion testing windows and public announcement dates closer together," said Chief Master Sgt. Greg Haley, chief of the enlisted promotions and military testing branch. "We believe having to wait months on your promotion result is a career irritant we can fix.

"We've always been able to keep the wait time down for

individuals competing for chief master sergeant. Why not the other ranks?" Haley said.

The following are the revised testing dates and cycles the dates effect:

■ For chief master sergeant, testing will take place the first four days after Labor Day starting with cycle 01E9.

■ For senior master sergeant, testing will be permanently moved from November to January starting with cycle 02E8. This cycle will test Jan. 10 through 24.

■ For master and technical sergeant, the testing window will slip 15 days to Feb. 15 through March 31 starting with cycle 02E7/02E6.

■ For staff sergeant, the testing cycle will slip one month. Senior airmen will test in May starting with cycle 02E5.

"The most significant change is corporately moving E-8 testing from November to January every year," Haley said. "It allows E-8 eligibles to test in January, get boarded in

February and receive their results in March — similar to the E-9 promotion process. Although there will be tighter deadlines on non-weightables, the gain for members should be well worth it.

"We're also providing a larger gap between the E-6/7 and E-5 cycles which will allow more time to work testing products and finalize eligibility changes for the cycle," he said.

Another big change taking place with the 2002 cycles is the increase in time an airman has access to the proper testing materials. Currently, the Air Force only requires people have access to study materials for 30 days to be required to test. The change now requires that 30-day window be extended to 60 days. And, when there is a delay in the receipt of materials through no fault of members, they will not be required to test until they have been granted 60 days to study.

For more information about testing issues, people should contact the local military personnel flight. (Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)

Briefs

Continued from Page 1

because of questions about its potential to cause human reactions. Commissary customers who have purchased the product, may return it to the store for a full refund.

Mandate lifted

The use of car seats for children processed through Air Mobility Command-owned or controlled terminals is no longer mandatory; however, the use of car seats when appropriate for a child's safety, is still encouraged.

Relief from the mandatory use of car seats doesn't eliminate the requirement that all passengers, regardless of age, be assigned their own seatbelt.

For more information, call the base traffic management office passenger travel section at 452-6661 for more information.

Gas mask fit test hours

The 52nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Bioenvironmental Engineer Flight's new gas mask fit testing hours are by appointment only 7:45-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. People assigned to a geographically-separated unit or deploying have priority and may walk in between 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday without an appointment. Call 452-8348 for more information.

Radio schedule

The daylight savings time spring time change takes place 2 a.m. Sunday in Europe; however, time doesn't change in the United States until April 1. This means some Air Force Network radio and television programs will play at different times during the week.

Sunday on AFN Power Network, "Nuestra Musica," "Car Talk," "Prairie Home Companion," National Public Radio programs and live sporting events take place one hour later than normal during the week.

Weekday radio programs affected by the time change include Paul Harvey, many of the features within "AFN Morning News Watch,"

"Sports Overnight America," "Evening News Watch," "Rush Limbaugh," "Doctor Laura," "Talk of the Nation" and "All Things Considered."

AFN Europe television programming changes for the week include AFN children's programming moving to 1 p.m., the "Today" show to 2-4 p.m. and additional children's programming to 4-5 p.m.

All programs on other AFN television services show one hour later through the week. The AFN programming schedule returns to normal April 1 when the spring time change takes place in the United States.

Check the AFN Europe website at www.afneurope.army.mil for a detailed listing of all changes.

Travel advisory

The United Kingdom is experiencing an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease. While there's no risk to humans, it is an acute, highly contagious, degenerative viral disease of cloven-hoofed animals.

People can spread the disease if they come into contact with infected animals or areas as the virus can ride along on clothing and footwear. Because of this, travel in the United Kingdom has been affected.

To prevent further spread of the disease, access to rural areas is restricted. Roads in the vicinity of farms where Foot and Mouth Disease has been detected are closed. Many footpaths and rural tourist sites, including Hampton Court Home Park, Stonehenge and zoos are closed.

To minimize inconvenience, travelers should consult their travel agent or tour operator before traveling to the United Kingdom. For daily updates, consult the following web sites: the U.K. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food at <http://www.maff.gov.uk> and British Information Services at <http://www.britainusa.com>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is taking measures to guard against the introduction of FMD into the United States. Current information on FMD and related issues are available at <http://www.usda.gov>.

Half pipes available for youth

Compiled from staff reports

Base officials warn youth against making homemade skating ramps.

While youth are just now starting to pull out their bicycles, in-line skates and skateboards, some youth are also constructing homemade ramps that have the potential to lead to serious injury, according to Staff Sgt. Shelly Barton, 52nd Fighter Wing Safety Office.

"For children's safety, building these ramps on base or in the GLHs (government-leased housing) is prohibited," she said.

Instead, youth should use one of the two free skateboard/in-line skate half-pipes. The one on Spangdahlem Air Base, only a year old, is near the base picnic pavilion by the bowling center. The other is on the Bitburg Annex.

Security forces officials remind youth that curfew hours apply to its use. Those are 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. for children ages 12 and younger, and 11:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. for 13-17 year olds during school

nights; 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. for ages 12 and younger, and 12:30-5 a.m. for 13-17 year olds during non-school nights.

While youth are encouraged to use the half-pipe, they are required to heed safety rules, said Randall Greenfield, outdoor recreation director. "The possibility of injury is too great with skateboarding, especially to the wrist and head," he said.

As a result, skaters are required to wear protective headgear, and elbow and knee pads. Barton also strongly suggests wrist guards, but they aren't mandatory.

She also reminds youth to abide by the following skating and bicycling rules:

Skating

■It's not allowed in main cantonment areas or roads on base, but is allowed in all housing areas and school parking areas after business hours.

■Sidewalks should be used when available; otherwise, stay to the far right side of the road.

Bicycling

■Ride to the right side of the road, in single file.

■Only one person rides on the bicycle unless it's a tandem bike.

■Bells, reflectors, headlights and tail lights are required. Lights need to be used during reduced visibility and darkness.

■Approved bicycle helmets are required.

■No riding in areas normally used for pedestrians such as sidewalks, crosswalks and stairs; however, small children learning to ride may use sidewalks.

■Obey all traffic rules on and off base.

For more information concerning safe riding or skating, call the wing safety office at 452-7233.

Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios
Shane Yost, in-line skating expert and worldwide competitor, demonstrates his skills on the base half-pipe Aug. 10, 2000. Yost wears and promotes the use of protective gear, including helmets, and elbow and knee pads.

Careerists must weigh retirement system choice

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Some retirement-minded troops reaching 15 years of active service this summer will need to decide whether to accept a \$30,000 cash bonus now in exchange for a reduced retirement plan after at least five more years in uniform.

The career status bonus decision will affect those troops reaching 15 years of active service on Aug. 1, said Tom Tower, assistant director of the Defense Department's military compensation office. Affected service members joined the Cold War-era military back in 1986, or later, he added.

"It is a personal decision, and an individual should base it upon the way they see things such as personal career expectations. That would include the member's final grade at retirement and the total years of service reached, plus what you might do with the bonus money," Tower said.

Bonus-takers would retire at or after 20 years of active service at 40 percent of the average of their last three years' basic pay, he said. Service members not taking the bonus would retire at 50 percent of the average of their last three years' pay, he added. Retired pay under both systems reaches 75 percent at 30 years of service.

Bonus takers would also get reduced retired pay Cost of Living Allowances.

Service members eligible for the bonus will receive notice at about 14.5 years of service, Tower said. People choosing the bonus are obligated to serve at least 20 years, he added.

"Beyond that, you could stay as long as your service will allow," Tower said. The government would recoup part of any bonus money paid to service members who don't complete at least 20 years of service, he added, exempting those who receive authorized early retirements or disability separations.

Tower said service members eligible for

bonuses before March 2002 may delay their bonus decision until March 1, 2002, after the military Thrift Savings Plan has gone into effect, Tower said. This way "service members can put more into a tax protected retirement account, if they so desire," he said.

"You'll get your \$30,000 and be able to put some more money toward retirement, too," Tower said. "These choices are yours to make, so take your time, be deliberate, be careful. Your choice may not be revoked."

For more information about the career status bonus, see the Web site at pay2000.dtic.mil.

AFPC announces new provisions of Thrift Savings Plan program

Retirement investment options increase for federal employees

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Federal civilian employees will find new opportunities for investment when the next Thrift Savings Plan open season begins May 15, thanks to the recently approved Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001 and Public Law 106-361.

During the open season, employees may increase their investment contribution, enroll in two new funds, rollover money from qualified trusts, and new and rehired employees may enroll in TSP without waiting for the normal open seasons. Elections made in the TSP open season will be effective no earlier than July 1.

"This is an excellent opportunity for employees to increase their retirement income," said Christine Watkins, employee relations specialist for the Benefits and Entitlements Service Team here. "We have been eagerly awaiting the new changes and are excited about the benefits."

Employees in the Federal Employees Retirement System will be able to invest an additional 1 percent of their salary not to exceed 11 percent each pay period while those under the Civil Service Retirement System can invest an additional

1 percent of their salary, not to exceed 6 percent each pay period.

Employee contribution limits will continue to increase by 1 percent each year until they reach 15 percent for FERS and 10 percent for CSRS in fiscal 2005. In fiscal 2006, the limits will be lifted entirely.

This change does not lift the Internal Revenue Service imposed dollar maximums that apply to all retirement savings programs like the TSP. The dollar cap for 2001 is \$10,500.

Additional contributions will not affect government contributions. CSRS employees don't receive government contributions and FERS employees will continue to receive an automatic 1 percent of salary regardless of whether they invest anything. FERS employees will continue to receive matching contributions of up to an additional 4 percent for those investing 5 percent or more of their salaries.

Employees can invest in two new funds, making a total of five funds to choose from. Employees can invest in the G-government securities index fund, F-bond index fund, C-common stocks index fund and the two new funds, S-small capitalization index fund and I-international index fund.

People desiring to rollover money from qualified trusts may do so based on Public Law 106-361. This transaction will be done directly with the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board. The board is in the process of developing a

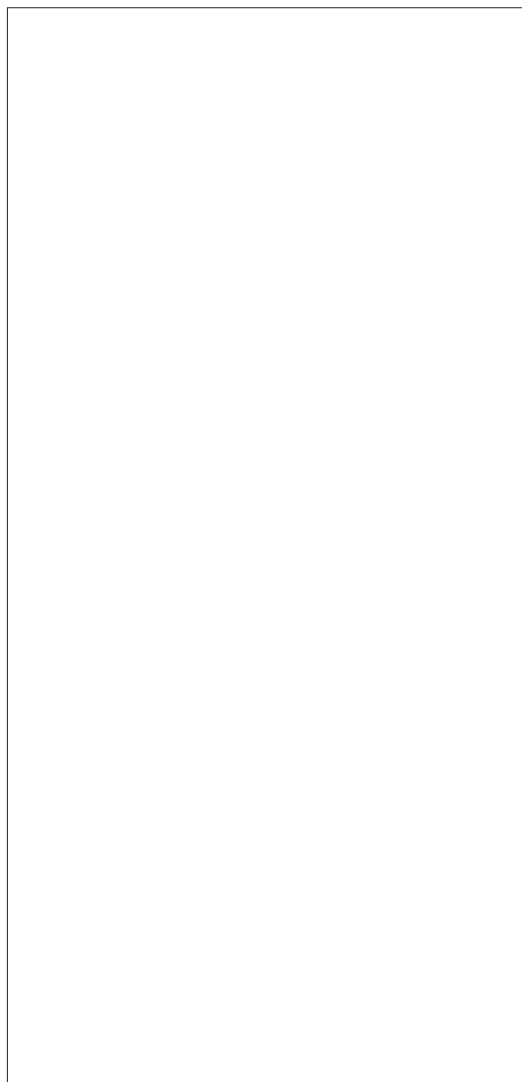
new form and additional information will be released within the next few months.

Public Law 106-361 also eliminates the waiting periods for newly hired and rehired employees to contribute into TSP. FERS or CSRS employees appointed before July 1, will have the opportunity to make a TSP contribution election during the May to July open season. Employees appointed on or after July 1, will have 60 days from the effective date of their appointments to make a TSP contribution election.

This provision applies only to employee contributions. Agency contributions will continue to be based upon current open season waiting period schedules. Information about these benefits and the appropriate procedures to follow will be published in the Air Force Personnel Center Benefits and Entitlements Service Team's upcoming newsletter.

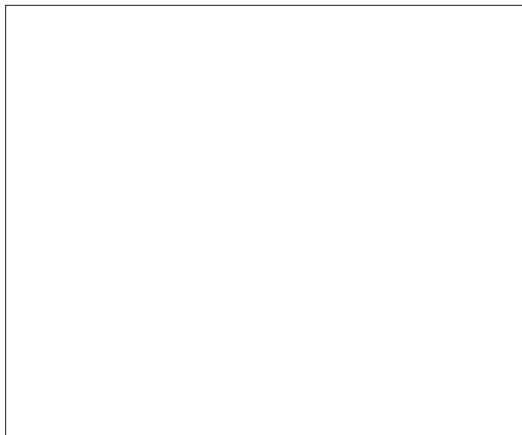
Additional information can be found on the TSP home page at www.tsp.gov or the BEST homepage at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/DPC/BEST/menu.htm, under what's new.

TSP isn't available to uniformed services members at this time and a specific Air Force office has not yet been identified to manage its military TSP program. In the interim, military members can obtain information on enrollment and participation in TSP at www.tsp.gov, under uniformed services." (Air Force Print News)

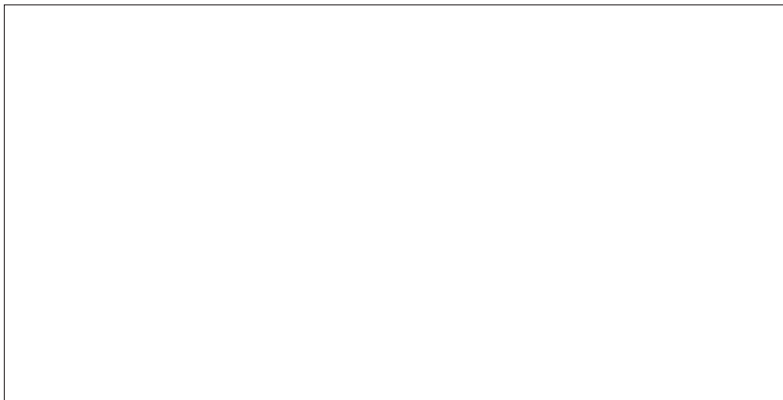


Photos by Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey

Airman Tracy Thompson pulls an aircraft refueling truck hose. Because the hose contains some fuel and is made of a thick rubbery material, it's heavy and awkward to carry. It takes about 25 minutes to fill an F-16's 1,000 gallon tank.



Airman Eric Murray, fuels operations journeyman, drains the sumps of a fuel tank where water caused by condensation collects. Aircraft require pure, dry fuel for safe operation.



Photos by Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey

Fuels operations journeymen Senior Airman Joe Sliper and Airman 1st Class Andre Hernandez fill a 30,000 gallon cart with liquid oxygen for transport.

From aviation to medical, fuels keeps mission *moving*

By Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

What does the base shuttle service, a pilot flying a sortie and a child checking into the clinic for wart removal all have in common?

The 52nd Supply Squadron Fuels Management Flight stores and supplies the liquids making each event possible.

"You'll find we reach out and touch practically everyone on base in one way or another," said Tech. Sgt. Douglas Beck, non-commissioned officer in charge of fuels support. "We don't just pump gas."

Wing fuels provides, stores and manages JP-8+100, a new fuel for wing aircraft; JP-8 for transient aircraft; unleaded gasoline for most government vehicles; DG-2 diesel fuel for some wing-owned German vehicles; liquid oxygen for the flying mission; and liquid nitrogen for aircraft equipment cleaning and medical uses.

Because fuels is intertwined with so many Air Force missions, fuels flight members don't stay in one place for long.

Of the 64 people assigned to the wing fuels flight, an average of 15 of its members are deployed, supporting missions around the world throughout the year.

The fuels member's most common challenge is always being away somewhere and having to become familiar with different equipment at each location, said Master Sgt. Michael Southerland, fuels flight operations superintendent. Within the past year, wing fuels technicians supported 12 operations, exercises and training deployments in 12 worldwide locations.

The flight's deployments to Slovakia, supporting the 23rd and 81st Fighter Squadrons weapons training exercises, offered the most challenges, Southerland said. This was due to the amount of preparation involved because it was the first time the U.S. Air Force had flown out of Slovakia, said Tech. Sgt. Brian Payne, NCOIC of fuels distribution.

A pre-deployment survey of the Slovak air base found the PL-7 fuel used by the Slovak air force could be made compatible by mixing additives into the fuel to meet JP-8 standards.

Fuels' Air Expeditionary Force-deployment spots offer flight members with some deployment predictability, according to Southerland.

"We have everyone plugged into an AEF deployment throughout the year," Southerland said. "In

2000, fuels members participated in five AEF deployments and are scheduled to support another seven in 2001."

At home, fuel flight members must keep up their training in all areas of fuels to remain worldwide qualified and deploy at a moment's notice.

"Operating the fuel truck is the backbone of fuels - if the fuel doesn't get to the aircraft, the aircraft doesn't fly; if the aircraft doesn't fly, the mission doesn't get done," Beck explained. "But, if someone dies (in a real-world contingency), someone needs to step in to whatever job that person was doing. It's that simple. The mission needs to get done."

Despite its challenges, some fuels members find working the job ideal and see its challenges as benefits.

"Working here is great," Airman Tracy Thompson, fuels flight journeyman said. "We get to work with all kinds of aircraft and vehicles. There are also some really good TDY opportunities."

In addition to deployment challenges, wing fuels lead the way in the Air Force by being the first base to store JP-8+100 in bulk fuel tanks. Testing shows mixing in the "100" additive makes JP-8 a cleaner burning fuel.

"The conversion to JP-8+100 was initially more work for us, but it should save money and man hours in the long run," Beck said.

It's evident by the flight's four almost consecutive wins for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Golden Drum award that its members know how to safely and efficiently handle, store and provide the fuel and other liquids they're entrusted with. The flight took home first place in 1996, 1997, 1998 and in 2000. It didn't take part in 1999 competition due to preparations for that year's wing inspection by the inspector general, which they received a top rating.

The fuels team was also a runner-up for the American Petroleum Institute award in 1996 and 1997.

The flight was recently selected as one of three finalists for the 2000 API award. An on-site evaluation of wing fuels takes place Monday through Thursday

"Winning this award (the API award) would mean we're doing our job better than any other fuels flight in the Air Force," Beck said.

From aircraft to warts, the fuels flight has its hands in many aspects of the wing mission to achieve U.S. and NATO interests and not just on the gas pump.

Community Mailbox

ACT-Eifel

Auditions for "The Sound of Music," take place at 1 p.m. Saturday. Roles are available for men, women and children age 6 and older. Non-singing roles are also available. Call Harmony Martin at 06562-931689 or Master Sgt. Robert Benton at 452-5444 for details.

Country dancing

A country and western dance class meets from 6-7 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday, beginning this Tuesday and ending April 19. Call the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center at 452-7381 or 452-6567 for details.

Diabetes support group

The diabetes support group meets at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Bitburg Annex hospital large conference room. Call Capt. Lora Balerno at 453-3368 for details.

Pre-school opportunities

■The Bunny Club meets at 10 a.m. each Thursday in Bitburg Annex building 2001. Call Michelle Linnen at 453-3130 for details.

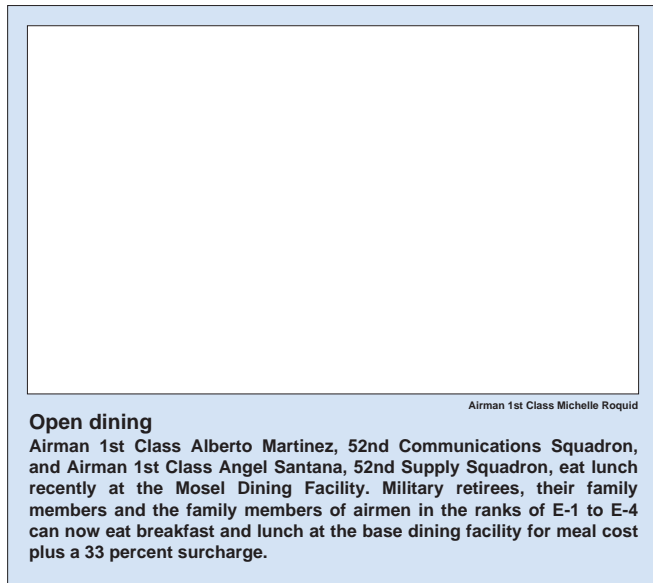
■Ready, Set, Grow meets at 11 a.m. each Wednesday in the Bitburg Annex building 2001. Call Cindy Gabehart at 453-3130 for details.

■Ready, Set, Grow Spangdahlem meets at 11 a.m. each Monday in the Speicher protestant church. Call Terri Hostetter at 452-8279 for details.

■The Spangdahlem Playgroup meets at 9:30 a.m. each Wednesday in Spangdahlem Air Base military family housing unit 422C. Call Suzanne Furman at 452-8279 for details.

School news

■A Scholastic Reading Counts open



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

Open dining

Airman 1st Class Alberto Martinez, 52nd Communications Squadron, and Airman 1st Class Angel Santana, 52nd Supply Squadron, eat lunch recently at the Mosel Dining Facility. Military retirees, their family members and the family members of airmen in the ranks of E-1 to E-4 can now eat breakfast and lunch at the base dining facility for meal cost plus a 33 percent surcharge.

house takes place at 6 p.m. Thursday in Bitburg Middle School Room 104. Call 453-7110 for details.

■The Bulldog County Fair takes place from 5:30-8:30 p.m. today in Spangdahlem Middle School. The event features Polynesian and country dancing teams, a "crazy" fashion show, games and a silent auction. Tickets are sold at the door. Call Jody Turner at 06575-959127 for details.

■The Bitburg Elementary School Parent, Teacher Association meeting takes place at 6 p.m. April 3 at the school. Call 453-7215 for details.

■The Bitburg Elementary School drama club presents the play "It's In The Bag" at 1 p.m. April 3, at 6 p.m. April 4 and at 9 a.m. April 5. Call 453-7215 for details.

■Bitburg Elementary School needs volunteers to help with its spring carnival taking place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 19. The next planning meeting takes place at 6 p.m. Thursday in the school cafeteria. Call Pamela Troester at 06561-604759 or 452-5444 for details or to sign up.

Family support center news

The following classes take place in building 307 on Spangdahlem Air Base, unless listed otherwise. Call 452-6422 for details or to register.

■Deployment briefings take place 8-9 a.m. Tuesday.

■Mutual fundamentals, part two, takes place 6-8 p.m. Thursday.

■Key Spouses, a program providing an informal link between unit leadership and base assistance programs, meet from noon to 1:30 p.m. March 30.

The following class takes place in building 2001 on the Bitburg Annex. Call 453-7491 for details or to register.

■Part two of a resume workshop takes place 8-11 a.m. Tuesday.

Spring fashions

The Spangdahlem Air Base Main Exchange spring fashion show takes place from 2-3 p.m. April 7. Call 452-7017 for details.

Library news

■National Library Week takes place April 1-7. Special daily activities for children and an adult book give-away take place. Call for details.

■The Spangdahlem Air Base library Make-A-Bunny contest takes place through April. Contestants can draw it, build it or bake it, but the submission must be in the shape of a rabbit.

■Pre-school story hour takes place at 9:30 a.m. each Thursday on Spangdahlem Air Base and at 9:30 a.m. each Wednesday at the Bitburg Annex location.

Call the Spangdahlem AB library at 452-6203 or Bitburg Annex at 453-7056 for details.

Mainz trip

An all ranks, unaccompanied airmen trip to Mainz, Germany, takes place April 7. Members must be single or unaccompanied and working in a shop supporting members deployed or TDY in excess of 30 continuous days.

Departure time is 7 a.m. and estimated return time is 9 p.m. Trip includes transportation only. Call the family support center at 452-6422 for details.

Volunteer opportunities

Event coordinators seek help for the following events. Call Charly Emmerling at 452-6466 for details.

■Easter egg hunt, 8:30-11:30 a.m. April 7 at Bitburg Middle School. Help is needed to hide eggs and assist younger children in finding them.

■Children's festival, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 7 at Bitburg Middle School. Help is needed to assist in various youth activities.

Talent show

The U.S. Air Forces in Europe Regional Youth Talent Workshop and Show takes place at 7 p.m. April 13 in the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center. Call the center at 452-7381 for show information.

Volunteers are also needed for the show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 9-12 and 5-10 p.m. April 13. Help is needed for set up, sound and after-event cleaning. Call Charly Emmerling at 452-6466 to volunteer.

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Bitburg Castle

Tonight
Hannibal (R)

After having successfully eluded the authorities for years, Hannibal flees to his homeland of America to once again make contact with disgraced Agent Clarice Starling. Starring Sir Anthony Hopkins and Julianne Moore. (Violence, terror and language.)

Saturday
Hannibal

Sunday
Emperor's New Groove (G)

Animated Emperor Kuzco is transformed into a llama by his power-hungry advisor, the devious diva Yzma. Stranded in the jungle, Kuzco's only chance to reclaim the high life rests with peasant Pacha.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday
Emperor's New Groove

Thursday
Family Man (PG-13)

Through a variety of circumstances, Jack finds himself waking up next to his girlfriend whom he hasn't seen in thirteen years. There's a baby crying in the next room and a six-year-old girl calling him Daddy. And that's just the beginning of Jack's surprises. Starring Nicolas Cage and Tea Leoni.

(Sensuality and some language)

Spangdahlem Skyline

Tonight
Sweet November (PG-13)

Based on a 1968 romantic comedy, Nelson is completely involved in himself. Then, he meets Charlize who engages him in a game with simple rules: No questions; no holding back; and absolutely no more than one month together. Starring Keanu Reeves and Charlize Theron.

Saturday
Sweet November

Sunday
What Women Want (PG-13)

Nick gets a whole new outlook on life when a fluke accident gives him the ability to read women's minds. Despite his best efforts, he finds himself falling in love and ultimately understanding what women want. Starring Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt.

Monday
What Women Want

Tuesday
Wes Craven Presents: Dracula 2000 (R)

Dracula, freed at last from a century in confinement, finds himself the 21st century where he finds chaos, temptation and nightclubs where he fits right in. His goal is to find a young woman to share his dark legacy. Starring Christopher Plummer and Jonny Lee Miller. (Violence, gore, language and sexuality.)

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 453-7541.

Tiptoe through the Keukenhof tulips

Gardeners create art using flowers, shapes

By Iris Reiff
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Every year, when the Dutch bulb fields burst into a "rainbow of colors," thousands of people flock to the lovely country site of Keukenhof, the heart of the Holland bulb district.

Keukenhof was founded in 1949, when a group of prominent Dutch bulb-growers from the area around Lisse, the Netherlands, decided to display a large variety of flowers in a landscaped setting. It was also their aim to exhibit flowering tulips, daffodils and narcissi, hyacinths and other small bulb varieties in natural surroundings to show how bulbs can be used for private gardening.

The exhibition they had in mind would enable visitors to enjoy the beauty of the bulb flowers throughout their flowering period. However, Keukenhof's founders soon realized some flowers only reveal their beauty for a relatively short time.

Keukenhof has both charm and splendor. Almost six centuries ago, from 1401 until 1436, the grounds belonged to Countess Jacoba van Beieren. She and her entourage used the property for hunting.

The name of today's largest flower display in the world dates back to the Middle Ages when it was once a "kitchen garden." Part of the garden was used for plants and herbs for the countess' kitchen. "Keuken" is the Dutch word for "kitchen" and the word "hof" translates to "garden."

But, it's not the historic name that entices tourists to the Keukenhof, it's nature at its finest. About seven million bulbs are planted on the grounds each



Courtesy photo

Keukenhof is the largest flower display in the world.

year. Gardeners create weaving designs of color between magnificent trees and shrubs. The blooming beauties lure the most reluctant walkers to wander through the garden's 70 acres. Visitors can plan to take a 10-mile trek.

Outdoors, the flowers are only in bloom eight or nine weeks annually, but they're also cultivated in glass houses year-round. For the two months that Keukenhof is open to the public, a grand display of 500 different varieties of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and other flowers can be seen.

An area of 7,000 square meters of greenhouses offer a permanent and unique flower show. A huge indoor spring garden staged throughout the duration of the exhibition is also available.

A special greenhouse has a large collection of extraordinary indoor flowers. All together, 10 indoor exhibitions or parades take place in the greenhouse or the Queen Beatrix Pavilion.

Keukenhof also features seven theme gardens, in which flowers play lead roles — abstract, scent, color, renaissance, style, border and rock-shadow-water.

Other special attractions and events at Keukenhof include a windmill, the "Carillion" and art exhibitions. The popular authentic windmill originates from 1892 and was used to grind corn in the north Dutch province of Groningen.

From here, visitors have a beautiful view of the garden and surrounding fields, stretching over hundreds of acres. Every 15 minutes visitors can hear an 18-bell carillon clock play international tunes.

It's located near the Terras Smalle Bos. Also, annually a number of artists are selected to exhibit sculptures and other art objects throughout the park.

The Keukenhof opens for the 2001 season and remains open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily through May 27. Entry price is 20 Dutch Guilders for adults and 10 for children ages 4-12. Children 3 and younger are free. Groups of 20 people and more and seniors receive price reductions.

For more information, call Keukenhof Information at 0031-252-465555.

For people who don't want to cope with the traffic, but do want to see the beauty of the flower garden, the Spangdahlem Community Activities Center Information, Tickets and Tours office offers tours to the Keukenhof April 7, April 21 and May 5.

An ITT trip is also available to the flower parade taking place April 28. See this week's "Out and About" section for details.

Call 452-6567 or 453-7120 for more information. Because the tours sell quickly, people should sign up as soon as possible.

Out and about

■Trier's annual wine and gourmet festival takes place today through April 8. For details, visit the German language Web site at www.wein-festival.de.

■Shop in Wittlich Sunday where more than 100 stores will be open between 1 and 6 p.m. A market featuring agricultural products and handicraft can be found in the Wittlich market square and on Platz an der Lieser.

■Michael Rhodes and his friends international opera circles present a concert at 8 p.m. March 30 in the Bitburg Boda Haus. Rhodes is best known in the Spangdahlem Air Base community for conducting the chaplain service's Messiah concert for 39 years. Tickets cost \$11 for adults and \$8 for children and are available by calling 06561-6001144, 06561-6001145 or at the door.

■People interested in joining a Linux users group based in Geilenkirchen should contact Chris Bragg at chris@gklug.org or visit the group's site at <http://gklug.org>.

■People interested in playing paintball games, beginning March 31 should contact Morgan Bowker at morgan@topsurf.com or call 06568-93063.

■Now is a good time for volksmarching in Germany. Most volksmarches follow a circular route starting and ending at the same location. Eifel Wanderers meet at 7 p.m. April 4 in the Zum Stein Gasthaus in Metterich. Call 06569-963184 or 06575-959425 for details. Pick up a volksmarching schedule at the fitness center or visit the Eifel Wanderers Web page at www.welcome.to/eifelwanderers for more information.

■The German air force Single Intelligence and Analysis Center 70, located in the General-von-Seidel Caserne in Trier, sponsors an open house from 1-5 p.m. March 30. The event features a weapons systems static display including the Leopard Helicopter, Weasel and Marder tanks and other special military equipment. A multi-media show, demonstrations and entertainment also take place. For more information, call 0651-91624.

■The Manfred Mann's Earth Band concert takes place March 31 in the Kaiserslautern Kammgarn center. Call 0651-145990 for tickets.

■Visit the Landscheid spring market March 31 through April 1, featuring indoor and outdoor markets at the

Eifelhall hall. The market opens at 11 a.m. March 31. Entertainment, food and beverages will also be available.

■"Magic Of The Dance" tap show takes place April 4 at the Bitburg Edith-Stein school. For tickets, call 0651-145990.

■See the Schwab Ensemble performing ballads at 8 p.m. April 21 in the Bitburg Boda House cultural center. Tickets are 35 DM and are available by calling 06561-6001-144 or 145.

■See "Evita," a musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber, April 21 in Trier. For details, call 0651-145990.

■Reserve tickets for the German Bundeswehr military corps concert April 28 in the Hettenrodt Zirkuszelt. For details, call 0651-145990.

Information, Tickets and Tours offers the following tours in March and April. Call the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center at 452-6567 or the Bitburg Annex community center at 453-7120 for details.

■Bavarian castles express, March 31. Cost is \$80 for adults, \$75 for children ages 3-17.

■Castle Drachenfels, Birkenstock store and dinner at the Outback Steak House, March 31. Cost is \$35 for adults, \$30 for children ages 3-12.

■Spring break in Spain, April 6-12. Cost is \$279 for adults, \$195 for children 2-10.

■Paris overnight, April 7-8. Cost is \$185 for adults; \$130 for children 3-12.

■Keukenhof and Madurodam, Holland, April 7. Cost is \$75 for adults; \$65 for children 4-12.

■Disneyland Paris, April 7. Cost is \$75 adults, \$65 for children 4-12.

■Best of Holland, April 13. Cost is \$69 for adults and children 4-12.

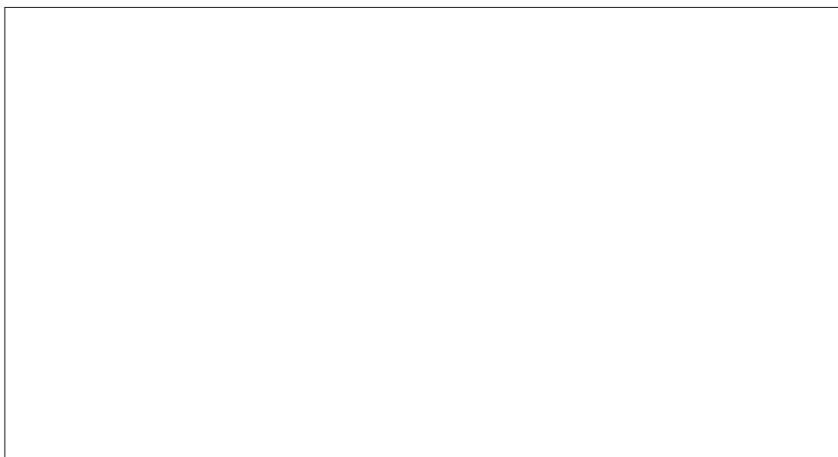
■Köln and chocolate museum, April 14. Cost is \$35 adults; \$30 for children.

■Keukenhof and Madurodam, Holland, April 21. Cost is \$75 for adults; \$65 for children 4-12.

■Cochern medieval dinner, April 21. Cost is \$65.

■Paris express, April 21. Cost is \$89 for adults; \$75 for children 3-17.

■London express, April 27-28. Cost is \$99 for adults; \$89 for children.



1st Lt. Angela Johnson

Junior might

Jonathan Strawther, Bitburg Annex youth center Junior Barons, tries to work his way out of his Landstuhl opponent's hold in the St. Patrick's Day junior wrestling tournament Saturday at Ramstein High School. Strawther took second place in the tournament. Baron wrestlers Scott McQuiston, Colton Johnston, John Coker, and Kyle McQuiston took first place. Matt Kochle and Evan Cook finished second. Tylor Holland and Matt Wilson took third. The Junior Barons finish out their season at the Youth European Championships Saturday at Heidelberg High School.

Eifel Sports World

Lady Baron Soccer

The Bitburg High School Lady Barons defeated Division I rival Wiesbaden Saturday 3-1.

The Lady Barons were anchored by a strong defensive effort by Brittany Sanders, Elizabeth Regalado and Kim McLearn. Jessica Wood scored two goals for the Barons and Kristi Wilding added a goal and an assist. Veteran Wes Canada added two assists in the non-conference opener.

The Baron Junior Varsity team also put away the Wiesbaden JV girls by the same score, 3-1. Saturday, the Lady Barons travel to the International School of Brussels for a tough season start to the conference schedule.

ISB was the Division II North Champion last year and should provide the Barons with a difficult test to kick off the conference race. (Courtesy of John Hall, Bitburg High School girl's varsity soccer coach.)

Fun run winners

Mel Petersen took first place in the men's category with a 14-minute run time during the 2001 Spangdahlem Air Base St. Patty's Day five-kilometer fun run. Susan Kloos took first in the women's category at 24 minutes.

Ice hockey

■The Bitburg Bears Shuler team, for youth ages 12-14, final home game of the season takes place at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Bitburg ice rink. The rink is located near Bitburg brewery by the Bitburg Annex.

■The Bitburg Bears adult team recently ended its season with a 10-6

record. The team placed second in the annual Geilenkirchen shoot out and also played in the U.S. Air Forces in Europe tournament in Garmisch, Germany. The 2001-2002 ice hockey season kicks off in October.

Call Lt. Col. Tom Beattie at 452-5014 or Horst Hamdorf at 452-6841 for more information.

Wrestling

The Bitburg Wrestling Club meets at 6 p.m. Monday in the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center. People ages 6 to adult interested in joining should attend. Call Ethan Lake at 452-7834 for details.

Racquetball

A racquetball tournament takes place Saturday and Sunday in the Spangdahlem Air Base fitness center. Registration fee after today is \$25. Cost for two matches is \$5. Call Staff Sgt. Susan O'Donnell at 452-6634 for details.

Swim team banquet

The Eifel Sharks awards pot-luck banquet takes place from 6-8 p.m. Thursday in the Spangdahlem Middle School cafeteria. Call Katie Ebert at 06565-944431 for details.

Aerobics classes

Kick-boxing aerobics classes take place at 5:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, and at 11 a.m. Friday. Step aerobics classes take place at 11 a.m. Tuesday. Both classes are held in the Spangdahlem Air Base fitness

center Cost is \$3 per class or \$25 monthly. Call 452-6496 for details.

Youth sports

Youth baseball registration continues through March 30. The Eifel Youth Sports office is located in building 2007 on the Bitburg Annex and in building 125 on Spangdahlem Air Base. Call 453- 6274 or 452-6729 for more information.

Golf

The Icebreaker Golf Tournament takes place at 9 a.m. April 7 at the Spangdahlem Air Base golf course. Teams consist of four people, 18-hole select shot. Cost is \$10 per person plus green fees. Call 452-6821.

Crud tournament

A Crud tournament takes place at 7 p.m. April 20 in the Spang Club lounge. The 52nd Logistics Group holds the commander's category title and the 23rd Fighter Squadron holds the open category champion title. The event is open to officers and civilian-equivalent members. Call 452-7494 for details.

Eifel Lanes bowling news

■New time: The Eifel Lanes Bowling Center offers family bowling discounts noon to 4 p.m. each Sunday.

■League bowlers practice for only \$1.50 a game 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Bowlers must present a current ABC/WIBC card to receive the reduced price.

Call the Eifel Lanes Bowling Center at 452-6217 for details.

Supply packs 43-23 victory over Services

By Bruce Cannady
52nd Services Squadron

The intramural basketball championship playoffs started on March 14 with American League Champions, 52nd Supply Squadron, defeating the 52nd Services Squadron 43-23. Marvin Poindexter's 17 points led Supply to victory at the Spangdahlem Air Base fitness center. Supply used their superior quickness and a three-guard line-up to control the tempo of the game to defeat a taller squad.

The same story highlighted the evening as the American League (large units) dominated the National League (small units) with three mercy rule game victories. Mercy rule victories occur when a team has a 20-point advantage in the last two minutes of the game.

In the only game going the full 40 minutes, American League's 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron defeated the 606th Air Control Squadron 51-48. CES's Shawn Marshall scorched the 606th ACS with a scintillating 27 points, and Walter Aubrey's two crucial free throws with 10 seconds remaining sealed the victory for CES.

In the third game of the night, the 52nd Medical Group dismantled the 52nd Operations Support Squadron 62-42, using full-court pressure defense and an endless run and gun offense. High scorers for Med Group were Wilkerson Henry with 14 points, Oscar Butler with 12 points, and William Lewis chipped in with 11 points.

In the nightcap, the 52nd Security Forces Squadron overwhelmed Buechel 53-32 with mass substitutions and a barrage of three-point baskets. Using a nine-man rotation, Security Forces simply out-manned Buechel's six-man squad.



Staff Sgt. Tim Cook

Ernest Jenkins, 52nd Supply Squadron, attempts a reverse layup against 52nd Services Squadron.